

CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. A gaming device comprising:
 - 5 a game initiated by a wager;
 - a housing;
 - a display area supported by the housing;
 - a plurality of reels positioned in said display area, the reels having a plurality of symbols and operable to rotate about an axis of rotation, each said reel having an outer surface;
 - 10 an indicator positioned in the display area and operable to move substantially parallel to said axis of rotation and in a plane spaced from the outer surfaces of the reels to sequentially indicate one of the symbols on each of the reels, wherein said indicator is positioned in front of the reels and is adapted to cover a portion of each of the reels; and
 - 15 an award adapted to be provided to a player based on one of the indicated symbols of the reels after said reels and said indicator stop moving.
2. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the axis of rotation is a substantially vertical axis and the indicator is operable to move in a substantially vertical direction.
- 20 25 3. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least two of the reels are operable to rotate in opposite directions with respect to each other about the axis of rotation.
4. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes three reels, wherein two of the reels are operable to rotate in a first direction about the axis of rotation and a third one of the reels is operable to rotate in a second different direction
30 about the axis of rotation.

5. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one first motion producing device operable to rotate the reels and a second motion producing device operable to move the indicator.
- 5 6. The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and second motion producing devices includes a stepper motor.
- 10 7. The gaming device of Claim 5, which includes a plurality of the second motion producing devices operable to move individually the indicator and a second member, the movement of the second member made substantially parallel to the plane of movement of the indicator.
- 15 8. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of indicators operable to move in at least one plane relative to the rotation of the reels, the indicators each sequentially indicating different symbols on the reel.
9. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the indicator is operable stop over the indicated award symbol.
- 20 10. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the indicator is operable stop adjacent to the indicated award symbol.
11. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the indicator is operable to stop and point to the indicated award symbol.
- 25 12. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein game is selected from the group consisting of: slot, poker, keno, blackjack, craps and bunco.
- 30 13. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the member and indicator operate as part of a bonus game triggered upon an event in the game.

14. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the award symbols represent an award selected from the group consisting of: game credits, a multiplier of credits, a number of picks from a prize pool, a number of free spins, a number of free games, a bonus game, a non-monetary award and any combination
5 thereof.

15. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes an additional reel without symbols operable to rotate with said reels.

10 16. A gaming device comprising:
a game initiated by a wager;
a housing;
a plurality of reels supported by the housing and operable to rotate about an axis of rotation;

15 a plurality of symbols on each of the reels;
an indicator operable to move substantially parallel to the axis of rotation and in a plane spaced from the reels to indicate different ones of the symbols as the reels rotate and the indicator moves, wherein said indicator is positioned in front of the reels and is adapted to cover a portion of each of the
20 reels; and

an award adapted to be provided to the player based on a first one of the symbols indicated by the indicator after the indicator stops moving and at least the reel displaying the first symbol stops rotating.

25 17. The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the award is based on the first symbol, the first symbol indicated after the indicator stops moving and each of the reels stop rotating.

18. The gaming device of Claim 16, which includes a motor coupled to the
30 indicator.

19. The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the indicator is spring loaded and moved by the rotation of one of the reels.
20. The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the indicator is biased to follow
5 a motion profile provided by one of the reels.
21. The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein each of the reels and the indicator is moved by a separate motion producing device.
- 10 22. The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the indicator is attached to a first mechanism that translates the indicator.
23. The gaming device of Claim 22, which includes a second mechanism operable to translate in combination with the first mechanism.
- 15 24. The gaming device of Claim 23, wherein the first and second mechanism, translate independently with respect to each other.
25. The gaming device of Claim 16, which includes a video monitor
20 operable to display a game that operates with the reels, symbols, indicator and award.

26. A gaming device comprising:
a game initiated by a wager;
a housing;
a plurality of reels supported by the housing and displaying a plurality of
5 award symbols;
a first motion producing device operable to rotate an indicator sequentially across the award symbols on different of said reels, said indicator positioned in front of the reels and adapted to cover a portion of each of said reels;
10 a second motion producing device operable to translate the indicator across the award symbols; and
an award adapted to be provided to a player based on one of the symbols of the reels after the motion producing devices stop moving.
- 15 27. The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the reel includes a plurality of rows of symbols and the second motion producing device translates the indicator across the rows.
- 20 28. The gaming device of Claim 26, which includes a plurality of reels with symbols, wherein the second motion producing device translates the indicator across each of the reels.
29. The gaming device of Claim 28, which includes a third motion producing device that rotates the reel.

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30. A gaming device comprising:
a game initiated by a wager;
a housing;
a plurality of reels supported by the housing and displaying a plurality of
5 award symbols;
at least one first motion producing device operable to rotate the reels to
sequentially display the award symbols;
a second motion producing device operable to translate an indicator
across the award symbols on different of said reels, said indicator positioned in
10 front of the reels and adapted to cover a portion of each of said reels;
a third motion producing device operable to translate a mechanism in
combination with the indicator; and
an award adapted to be provided to a player based on one of the
symbols of the reels after the motion producing devices stop moving.
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31. The gaming device of Claim 30, which includes at least one additional
motion producing device operable to rotate at least one additional reel having
award symbols thereon.
- 20 32. The gaming device of Claim 30, which includes at least one additional
motion producing device operable to rotate at least one additional reel that
displays a slot game.
33. A method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising:
25 (a) initiating a game upon a wager by a player;
(b) rotating a plurality of reels having a plurality of symbols thereon;
(c) moving a movable indicator across the reels in at lease one
direction, wherein said indicator is positioned in front of said reels and adapted
to cover a portion of each of said reels;
- 30 (d) causing the indicator to indicate on one of the symbols when the
indicator and the reel stop moving; and
(e) providing an award to the player based on the symbol indicated.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein moving the indicator includes rotating and translating the indicator.
35. The method of Claim 33, which includes moving a member in combination with the movement of the indicator.